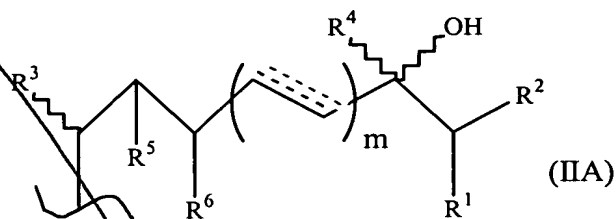
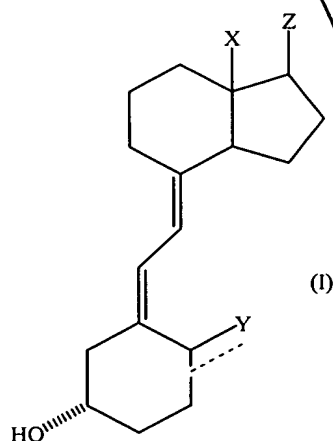


wherein Y is a methylene group if Y is double bonded to the A-ring or a methyl group or hydrogen if Y is single bonded; and X is hydrogen, lower alkyl or lower fluoroalkyl; and Z is a side chain of formula (IIA):



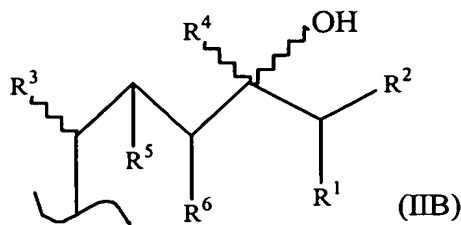
wherein a dotted line along the side chain represents an optional additional C-C bond and m is 0 or 1; R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are independently lower alkyl, lower fluoroalkyl, lower alkenyl, lower fluoroalkenyl, lower cycloalkyl or, taken together with the carbon to which they are bonded, form a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cyclohydrocarbon ring; R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower fluoroalkyl, lower alkenyl or lower fluoroalkenyl; R<sup>4</sup> is lower alkyl, lower fluoroalkyl, lower alkenyl or lower fluoroalkenyl; and R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are each hydrogen or taken together form a double bond between C-22 and C-23.

5. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 14 wherein said 24-hydroxyvitamin D is a compound of formula (I):



wherein Y is a methylene group if Y is double bonded to the A-ring or a methyl group or hydrogen if Y is single bonded; and X is hydrogen, lower alkyl or lower fluoroalkyl; and Z is a side chain of formula (IIB):

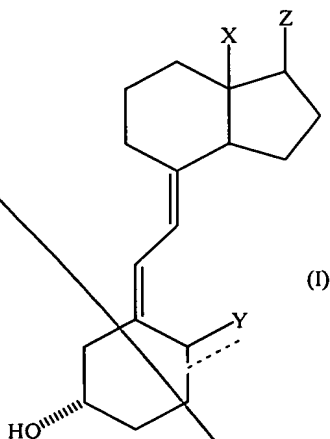
Sub  
C2  
cont.



wherein  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  are each hydrogen or taken together form a double bond between C-22 and C-23,  $R^3$  is hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower fluoroalkyl, lower alkenyl or lower fluoroalkenyl;  $R^4$  is lower alkyl, lower fluoroalkyl, lower alkenyl or lower fluoroalkenyl; and  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are independently hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower fluoroalkyl, lower alkenyl, lower fluoroalkenyl, lower cycloalkyl or taken together with the carbon to which they are bonded form a  $C_3$ - $C_8$  cyclocarbon ring.

30. (Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein said 24-hydroxyprevitamin D is 24-hydroxyprevitamin  $D_2$ ; 24(S)-hydroxyprevitamin  $D_2$ ; 24-hydroxyprevitamin  $D_4$ ; or 24(R)-hydroxyprevitamin  $D_4$ .

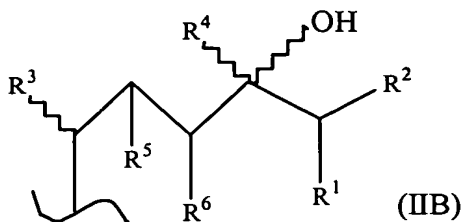
36. (Amended) The composition of claim 15, wherein said 24-hydroxyvitamin D is a vitamin  $D_2$  compound of formula (I):



wherein Y is a methylene group if Y is double bonded to the A-ring or a methyl group or hydrogen if Y is single bonded; and X is hydrogen, lower alkyl or lower fluoroalkyl; and wherein Z is a sidechain of formula (IIB):

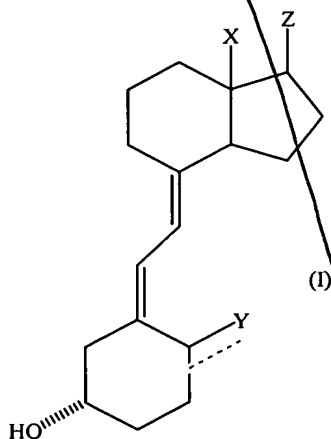
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B3

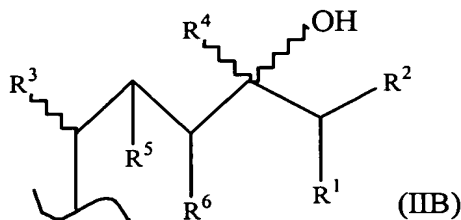


wherein R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are each hydrogen or taken together form a double bond between C-22 and C-23, R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower fluoroalkyl, lower alkenyl or lower fluoroalkenyl; R<sup>4</sup> is lower alkyl, lower fluoroalkyl, lower alkenyl or lower fluoroalkenyl; and wherein R<sup>1</sup> is a methyl group, and wherein R<sup>2</sup> is a methyl group.

37. (Amended) The tablet of claim 25, wherein the vitamin D compound is a vitamin D<sub>2</sub> compound of formula (I):



wherein Y is a methylene group if Y is double bonded to the A-ring or a methyl group or hydrogen if Y is single bonded; and X is hydrogen; and wherein Z is a sidechain of formula (IIB):



wherein R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are each hydrogen or taken together form a double bond between C-22 and C-23, R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower fluoroalkyl, lower alkenyl or lower

Sub  
CS  
Cont.  
B3

fluoroalkenyl; R<sup>4</sup> is lower alkyl, lower fluoroalkyl, lower alkenyl or lower fluoroalkenyl; and wherein R<sup>1</sup> is a methyl group, and wherein R<sup>2</sup> is a methyl group.

Cont.  
In accordance with 37 CFR §1.121(c)(1)(ii), Applicants submit a marked up version of the claims showing the amendments.

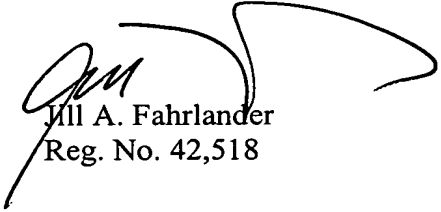
#### REMARKS

With entry of the amendment, claims 2-6, 11, 13-20, 25 and 28-37 are pending in the application. The claims are amended to correct clerical errors inadvertently introduced into the claims submitted in the first preliminary amendment. Claims 4 and 5 are amended to remove redundant language that was inadvertently added in the first preliminary amendment. Claim 30, which depends from claim 29, is amended to clarify that the method employs a 24-hydroxyprevitamin D compound. Claims 36 and 37 are amended to reflect that the claimed compounds have the structure of formula (I). No new matter has been added by these amendments.

As claims 2-6, 11, 13-20, 25, and 28- 37 are in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully solicit an early notice of allowance. In the event that there are any issues which can be expedited by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

June 1, 2001

  
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